

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-13 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00

PM-07 H-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 SY-10

JUSE-00 SCA-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSR-01 /186 W

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R 041802Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3752

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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ROME FOR USDEL TO HIJACKING CONFERENCE

MONTREAL FOR ICAO REP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - HMG STATEMENT ON ROME HIJACKING

MEETINGS

FOLLOWING IS FULL STATEMENT BY UK MINISTER OF AEROSPACE
AND SHIPPING HESELTINE ON EVE OF ROME HIJACKING MEETINGS:

"THE BRITISH DELEGATION MUST SPARE NO EFFORT TO GET AN
EFFECTIVE SOLUTION. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE BRITISH GOVERN-
MENT AT THIS MEETING IS TO GAIN WIDE INTERNATIONAL
ACCEPTANCE FOR MEASURES THAT WILL ENSURE THAT HIJACKERS
AND SABOTEURS WILL FIND NO REFUGE OR BOLTHOLE. TO DO
THIS WE MUST CREATE THE RIGHT INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE. IT
IS NOT ENOUGH FOR A FEW STATES TO ACT IN ISOLATION IN
THIS FIELD. SUCH ACTION COULD BE EASILY EVADED, INEFFECTIVE,
AND POSSIBLY MORE DAMAGING TO THOSE WHO ACT THAN
TO THOSE AGAINST WHOM IT WAS DIRECTED. THE MAJORITY OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST ACT IN CONCERT IF THIS
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SCOURGE IS TO BE ELIMINATED.

"THERE IS NO WAY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO IMPOSE THE CONDITION OF A TREATY ON STATES THAT ARE NOT PARTIES TO IT. WE MUST CREATE THE CLIMATE IN WHICH WORLD OPINION WILL PUT PRESSURE ON STATES THAT ARE RELUCTANT - FOR WHATEVER REASON - TO DO THEIR INTERNATIONAL DUTY. WE MUST CREATE THE CLIMATE INTERNATIONALLY WHICH WILL EASE THE TASK OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTS IN LEADING PUBLIC OPINION IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES TO SEE THE NEED FOR ACTION. AND WE MUST CREATE THE CLIMATE WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT EFFECTIVE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST ANY STATE THAT DEFAULTS ON THE OBLIGATIONS IT UNDERTAKES.

"PUBLIC OPINION IN THIS COUNTRY WILL NOT TOLERATE INACTION IN THE FACE OF THE RECURRING THREATS OF HIJACKING AND SABOTAGE AND OUR DELEGATES TO THE MEETING IN ROME ARE CARRYING THAT MESSAGE WITH THEM. THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS THROUGHOUT FOUGHT PERSISTENTLY AND HARD TO DEVISE A FORMULA THAT WILL BE BOTH WIDELY ACCEPTABLE AND EFFECTIVE. WE BELIEVE THAT WE NOW HAVE THE FRAMEWORK FOR A SOLUTION.

"THE BRITISH PROPOSAL WHICH WILL BE BEFORE THE ROME MEETING AND WHICH IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE SWISS, PROVIDES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN DEALING WITH HIJACKING AND OTHER OFFENCES. STATES WHICH ACCEPT THE HAGUE CONVENTION (AGAINST HIJACKING) AND THE MONTREAL CONVENTION (AGAINST SABOTAGE) WOULD BIND THEMSELVES TO ACCEPT THE JURISDICTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION IN THESE MATTERS. AND OUR PROPOSAL WOULD FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE POWERS OF THE COUNCIL, SO THAT IT

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COULD REQUIRE STATES THAT ARE PARTNERS TO DENY ACCESS TO THEIR AIRSPACE TO AIRCRAFT OF ANY STATE DEFAULTING ON ITS OBLIGATIONS.

"TO SUCCEED, OUR PROPOSAL WILL HAVE TO HAVE THE BACKING OF TWO THIRDS OF THE 128 MEMBER STATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT IT HAS THE WIDE ACCEPTANCE NECESSARY TO MAKE IT EFFECTIVE, BUT WILL DELAY ITS COMING INTO FORCE. WE SHALL BE SEEKING WAYS IN ROME TO BRIDGE THIS GAP, WITHOUT SACRIFICING OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE.

"THERE WILL BE OTHER PROPOSALS TABLED, BUT IN OUR VIEW NONE OF THEM GOES FAR ENOUGH. OUR PROPOSAL PROVIDES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL BODY TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION AGAINST DEFAULTERS.

"BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT DIFFERENCES OF APPROACH NEED NECESSARILY REFLECT A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE IN OBJECTIVE. MANY STATES ARE NOW CONVINCED, AS WE ARE, THAT IT IS INTOLERABLE TO ALLOW THE PRESENT SITUATION TO CONTINUE. THE CONFERENCE MUST BE MADE TO SUCCEED, AND IF UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE INSTRUCTIONS LIKE OURS IT WILL DO SO."

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